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THE ENGLISH HEART



# THE ENGLISH HEART

An Anthology of English Lyric Poetry

*Edited by*

CLIVE SANSOM

THE FALCON PRESS



## INTRODUCTION

ENGLAND will be remembered, someone has said, for her parish churches and her poetry. And, indeed, there is a kinship between those unassuming buildings, whose loveliness we take for granted, and that store of undemonstrative lyrics which we seem to have acquired in spite of ourselves.

But words are less ephemeral than stones. Even without the help of bombers and restorers, the churches must some day join the temples of Roman Britain, while our finest lyrics will remain as long as those of the Greek Anthology, as long as the English language means anything to scholars and historians.

Will they ask themselves, I wonder—those future historians—how a nation so stolid and unimaginative in appearance, and often in action, could have produced such poems? Or will they judge, on the strength of them, that we were better than we know ourselves to be, forgetting our wars, our complacency, even our blind worship of money, because one man wrote, “Fear no more. . . .” and another said in a Hampstead garden in 1819: “I cannot see what flowers are at my feet?”

Whatever they think, they will have a vast quantity to discuss. That is why this small collection is merely called *an* anthology. It makes no great claim to originality, and none whatever to completeness. These are just some of the lyrics for which I would “plead against Oblivion”—ones I would present to the library of Shangri-la for the unborn historians.

C. S.



## O WESTERN WIND

O western wind, when wilt thou blow  
That the small rain down can rain?  
Christ, that my love were in my arms,  
And I in my bed again!

*Anon. 16th Cent.*

## THE HOLY WELL

As it fell out one May morning,  
And upon a bright holiday,  
Sweet Jesus asked of his dear mother  
If he might go and play.  
"To play, to play, sweet Jesus shall go,  
And to play now get you gone;  
And let me hear of no complaint  
At night when you come home."

Sweet Jesus went down to yonder town,  
As far as the Holy Well,  
And there did see as fine children  
As any tongue can tell.  
He said, "God bless you every one,  
And your bodies Christ save and see!  
And now, little children, I'll play with you,  
And you shall play with me."

But they made answer to him, "No!  
Thou art meaner than us all;  
Thou art but a simple\* fair maid's child,  
Born in an ox's stall."  
Sweet Jesus turned him round about,  
Neither laughed, nor smiled, nor spoke;  
But the tears came trickling from his eyes  
Like water from the rock.

\* silly.

Sweet Jesus turned him round about,  
To his mother's home went he,  
And said, "I have been in yonder town,  
As after you may see:  
I have been down in yonder town,  
As far as the Holy Well;  
There did I meet with as fine children  
As any tongue can tell.

I said, 'God bless you every one,  
And your bodies Christ save and see!  
And now, little children, I'll play with you,  
And you shall play with me.'  
But they made answer to me, 'No';  
They were lords' and ladies' sons,  
And I the meanest of them all,  
Born in an ox's stall ' "

" Though you are but a maiden's child,  
Born in an ox's stall,  
Thou art the Christ, the King of Heaven,  
And the Saviour of them all!  
Sweet Jesus, go down to yonder town,  
As far as the Holy Well,  
And take away those sinful souls,  
And dip them deep in hell."

" Nay, nay," sweet Jesus smiled and said,  
" Nay, nay, that may not be,  
For there are too many sinful souls  
Crying out for the help of me."  
Then up spoke the angel Gabriel,  
Upon a good set steven,†  
" Although you are but a maiden's child,  
You are the King of Heaven!"

*Anon. Carol, date unknown.*

† voice.

## EPITAPH

O mortal folk, you may behold and see  
How I lie here, sometime a mighty knight.  
The end of joy and all prosperity  
Is death at last, thorough his course and might:  
For though the day be never so long,  
At last the bells ringeth to evensong.

*Stephen Hawes.*

## THE LOVER SHOWETH HOW HE IS FORSAKEN

They flee from me that sometime did me seek,  
With naked foot stalking within my chamber:  
Once have I seen them gentle, tame, and meek,  
That now are wild, and do not once remember  
That sometime they have put themselves in danger  
To take bread at my hand; and now they range  
Busily seeking in continual change.

Thanked be fortune, it hath been otherwise  
Twenty times better; but once especial,  
In thin array, after a pleasant guise,  
When her loose gown did from her shoulders fall,  
And she me caught in her arms long and small,  
And therewithal so sweetly did me kiss,  
And softly said, "Dear heart, how like you this?"

It was no dream; for I lay broad awaking:  
But all is turned now, through my gentleness,  
Into a bitter fashion of forsaking;  
And I have leave to go of her goodnèss;  
And she also to use new-fangleness.  
But since that I unkindly so am served,  
"How like you this?"—what hath she now deserved?

*Thomas Wyatt.*

## ON ISABELLA MARKHAM\*

Whence comes my love? O heart, disclose!  
'Twas from cheeks that shame the rose,  
From lips that spoil the ruby's praise,  
From eyes that mock the diamond's blaze.  
Whence comes my woe? as freely own—  
Ah, me! 'twas from a heart like stone.

The blushing cheek speaks modest mind;  
The lips, befitting words most kind;  
The eye does tempt to love's desire,  
And seems to say 'tis Cupid's fire.  
Yet all so fair but speak my moan,  
Since nought doth say the heart of stone.

Why thus, my love, so kind bespeak  
Sweet lip, sweet eye, sweet blushing cheek,  
Yet not a heart to save my pain?  
O Venus! take thy gifts again;  
Make not so fair to cause our moan,  
Or make a heart that's like our own!

*John Harington.*

\*“When I first thought her fair, as she stood at the Princess's window in goodly attire, and talked to divers in the courtyard.”

## AS YE CAME FROM THE HOLY LAND

As ye came from the holy land  
Of Walsingham,

Met you not with my true love  
By the way as you came?

How should I know your true love,  
That have met many a one,  
As I came from the holy land,  
That have come, that have gone?

She is neither white nor brown,  
But as the heavens fair;  
There is none hath her form divine  
In the earth or the air.

Such a one did I meet, good sir,  
Such an angelic face,  
Who like a nymph, like a queen, did appear  
In her gait, in her grace.

She hath left me here alone,  
All alone, as unknown,  
Who sometime did me lead with herself,  
And me loved as her own.

What's the cause that she leaves you alone,  
And a new way doth take,  
That sometime did love you as her own,  
And her joy did you make?

I have loved her all my youth,  
But now am old, as you see.  
Love likes not the falling fruit,  
Nor the withered tree.

Know that Love is a careless child,  
And forgets promise past;  
He is blind, he is deaf when he list,  
And in faith never fast.

His desire is a dureless content,  
And a trustless joy;  
He is won with a world of despair,  
And is lost with a toy.

Of womenkind such indeed is the love,  
Or the word love abusèd,  
Under which many childish desires  
And conceits are excusèd.

But true love is a durable fire,  
In the mind ever burning,  
Never sick, never dead, never cold,  
From itself never turning.

*Anon. 16th Cent.*

### LOVING IN TRUTH

Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show,  
That she, dear she, might take some pleasure of my pain,  
Pleasure might cause her read, reading might make her  
know,

Knowledge might pity win, and pity grace obtain—  
I sought fit words to paint the blackest face of woe,  
Studying inventions fine, her wits to entertain,  
Oft turning others' leaves, to see if thence would flow  
Some fresh and fruitful showers upon my sun-burned  
brain.

But words came halting forth, wanting Invention's stay;  
Invention, Nature's child, fled step-dame Study's blows,  
And others' feet still seemed but strangers in my way.  
Thus, great with child to speak, and helpless in my  
throes,

Biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite—  
“Fool,” said my Muse to me, “Look in thy heart and  
write!”

*Philip Sidney.*

THRENOS FROM "THE PHOENIX AND THE  
TURTLE"\*

Beauty, truth and rarity,  
Grace in all simplicity,  
Here enclosed in cinders lie.

Death is now the phoenix' nest;  
And the turtle's loyal breast  
To eternity doth rest,

Leaving no posterity:—  
'Twas not their infirmity,  
It was married chastity.

Truth may seem, but cannot be;  
Beauty brag, but 'tis not she;  
Truth and beauty buried be.

To this urn let those repair  
That are either true or fair;  
For these dead birds sigh a prayer.

*William Shakespeare.*

\* *The Phoenix was the symbol of love, the Turtledove of constancy.*

## IN TIME OF PESTILENCE

Adieu, farewell, 'earth's bliss !  
This world uncertain is :  
Fond are life's lustful joys,  
Death proves them all but toys.  
None from his darts can fly;  
I am sick, I must die—  
Lord ! have mercy on us !

Rich men, trust not in wealth,  
Gold cannot buy you health;  
Physic himself must fade;  
All things to end are made;  
The plague full swift goes by;  
I am sick, I must die—  
Lord ! have mercy on us !

Beauty is but a flower  
Which wrinkles will devour;  
Brightness falls from the air;  
Queens have died young and fair;  
Dust hath closed Helen's eye;  
I am sick, I must die—  
Lord ! have mercy on us !

Strength stoops unto the grave,  
Worms feed on Hector brave;  
Swords may not fight with fate;  
Earth still holds ope her gate;  
'Come, come !' the bells do cry;  
I am sick, I must die—  
Lord ! have mercy on us !

Wit with his wantonness  
Tasteth death's bitterness;  
Hell's executioner  
Hath no ears for to hear  
What vain art can reply;  
I am sick, I must die—  
Lord ! have mercy on us !

Haste therefore each degree  
To welcome destiny;  
Heaven is our heritage,  
Earth but a player's stage.  
Mount we unto the sky. . . .  
I am sick, I must die—  
Lord! have mercy on us!

*Thomas Nashe.*

### FEAR NO MORE

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,  
Nor the furious winter's rages;  
Thou thy worldly task hast done,  
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:  
Golden lads and girls all must,  
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great,  
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;  
Care no more to clothe and eat;  
To thee the reed is as the oak:  
The sceptre, learning, physic, must  
All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning-flash,  
Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone;  
Fear not slander, censure rash;  
Thou hast finished joy and moan:  
All lovers young, all lovers must  
Consign to thee, and come to dust.

No exorciser harm thee!  
Nor no witchcraft charm thee!  
Ghost unlaid forbear thee!  
Nothing ill come near thee!  
Quiet consummation have,  
And renownèd be thy grave!

*William Shakespeare.*

## SONNETS TO A FRIEND

15.

When I consider every thing that grows  
Holds in perfection but a little moment;  
That this huge stage presenteth nought but shows  
Whereon the stars in secret influence comment;  
When I perceive that men as plants increase,  
Cheerèd and checked even by the self-same sky—  
Vaunt in their youthful sap, at height decrease,  
And wear their brave state out of memory :  
Then the conceit of this inconstant stay  
Sets you most rich in youth before my sight,  
Where wasteful time debateth with decay  
To change your day of youth to sullied night;  
    And all in war with Time for love of you,  
    As he takes from you, I ingraft you new.

18

Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate :  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And Summer's lease hath all too short a date :  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimmed :  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed.  
But thy eternal Summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest,  
Nor shall Death brag thou wanderest in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest;  
    So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
    So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

65

Since brass, nor stone, nor earth, nor boundless sea,  
But sad mortality o'ersways their power,  
How with this rage shall beauty hold a plea,  
Whose action is no stronger than a flower?  
O how shall summer's honey breath hold out  
Against the wrackful siege of battering days,

16

When rocks impregnable are not so stout,  
Nor gates of steel so strong, but time decays?  
O fearful meditation: where, alack,  
Shall Time's best jewel from Time's chest lie hid?  
Or what strong hand can hold his swift foot back,  
Or who his spoil of beauty can forbid?  
O none, unless this miracle have might,  
That in black ink my love may still shine bright.

73

That time of year thou may'st in me behold  
When yellow leaves, or none, or few do hang  
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,  
Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.  
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day  
As after sunset fadeth in the west,  
Which by and by black night doth take away,  
Death's second self that seals up all in rest.  
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire,  
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,  
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,  
Consumed with that which it was nourished by.  
This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love  
more strong,  
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

87

Farewell! thou art too dear for my possessing,  
And like enough thou know'st thy estimate;  
The charter of thy worth gives thee releasing:  
My bonds in thee are all determinate.  
For how do I hold thee but by thy granting,  
And for that riches where is my deserving?  
The cause of this fair gift in me is wanting,  
And so my patent back again is swerving.  
Thy self thou gav'st, thy own worth then not knowing,  
Or me, to whom thou gav'st it, else mistaking;  
So thy great gift, upon misprision growing,  
Comes home again, on better judgment making.

Thus have I had thee as a dream doth flatter:  
In sleep, a King, but waking, no such matter.

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
 Admit impediments: love is not love  
 Which alters when it alteration finds,  
 Or bends with the remover to remove.  
 O no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
 That looks on tempests, and is never shaken;  
 It is the star to every wandering bark,  
 Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
 Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
 Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
 Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
 But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
 If this be error, and upon me proved,  
 I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

*William Shakespeare.*

### PORTRAIT OF HIS MISTRESS

I serve a mistress whiter than the snow,  
 Straighter than cedar, brighter than the glass,  
 Finer in trip and swifter than the roe,  
 More pleasant than the field of flowering grass;  
 More gladsome to my withering joys that fade  
 Than winter's sun or summer's cooling shade.  
 Sweeter than swelling grape of ripest wine,  
 Softer than feathers of the fairest swan,  
 Smoother than jet, more stately than the pine,  
 Fresher than poplar, smaller than my span,  
 Clearer than beauty's fiery-pointed beam,  
 Or icy crust of crystal's frozen stream.

Yet is she curster than the bear by kind,  
 And harder-hearted than the aged oak,  
 More glib than oil, more fickle than the wind,  
 Stiffer than steel, no sooner bent but broke.  
 Lo, thus my service is a lasting sore;  
 Yet will I serve, although I die therefore.

*Anthony Munday.*

### THREE AIRS

#### 1

There is none, O none but you,  
That from me estrange your sight,  
Whom mine eyes affect to view  
Or chainèd ears hear with delight.

Other beauties others move,  
In you I all graces find;  
Such is the effect of love,  
To make them happy that are kind.

Women in frail beauty trust,  
Only seem you fair to me;  
Yet prove truly kind and just,  
For that may not dissembled be.

Sweet, afford me then your sight,  
That, surveying all your looks,  
Endless volumes I may write  
And fill the world with envied books:

Which when after-ages view,  
All shall wonder and despair,  
Woman to find man so true,  
Or man a woman half so fair.

#### 2

When thou must home to shades of underground,  
And there arrived, a new admired guest,  
The beauteous spirits do engirt thee round—  
White Iope, blithe Helen, and the rest—  
To hear the stories of thy finished love  
From that smooth tongue whose music hell can move;

Then wilt thou speak of banqueting delights,  
Of masques and revels which sweet youth did make,  
Of tourneys and great challenges of knights,  
And all these triumphs for thy beauty's sake:  
When thou hast told these honours done to thee,  
Then tell, O tell, how thou didst murder me.

My sweetest Lesbia, let us live and love;  
 And though the sager sort our deeds reprove,  
 Let us not weigh them: heaven's great lamps do dive  
 Into their west, and straight again revive:  
 But soon as once set is our little light,  
 Then must we sleep one ever-during night.

If all would lead their lives in love like me,  
 Then bloody swords and armour should not be;  
 No drum nor trumpet peaceful sleeps should move,  
 Unless alarm came from the camp of love:  
 But fools do live, and waste their little light,  
 And seek with pain their ever-during night.

When timely death my life and fortune ends,  
 Let not my hearse be vexed with mourning friends;  
 But let all lovers, rich in triumph, come  
 And with sweet pastimes grace my happy tomb;  
 And, Lesbia, close up thou my little light,  
 And crown with love my ever-during night.

*Thomas Campion.*

### DEAR, IF YOU CHANGE

Dear, if you change, I'll never choose again;  
 Sweet, if you shrink, I'll never think of love;  
 Fair, if you fail, I'll judge all beauty vain;  
 Wise, if too weak, moe\* wits I'll never prove.  
 Dear, sweet, fair, wise—change, shrink, nor be not weak;  
 And, on my faith, my faith shall never break!

Earth with her flowers shall sooner heaven adorn;  
 Heaven her bright stars through earth's dim  
 globe shall move;  
 Fire heat shall lose, and frosts of flames be born;  
 Air, made to shine, as black as hell shall prove;  
 Earth, heaven, fire, air, the world transformed shall view.  
 Ere I prove false to faith, or strange to you.

*Anon. 16th Cent.*

\* *more.*

## THE LIE

Go, soul, the body's guest,  
Upon a thankless arrant;\*  
Fear not to touch the best,  
The truth shall be thy warrant:  
Go, since I needs must die,  
And give the world the lie.

Say to the Court, it glows  
And shines like rotten wood;  
Say to the Church, it shows  
What's good and doth no good:  
If Church and Court reply,  
Then give them both the lie.

Tell men of high condition,  
That manage the estate,  
Their purpose is ambition,  
Their practice only hate:  
And if they once reply,  
Then give them all the lie.

Tell zeal it wants devotion,  
Tell love it is but lust,  
Tell time it is but motion,  
Tell flesh it is but dust:  
And wish them not reply,  
For thou must give the lie.

Tell age it daily wasteth,  
Tell honour how it alters,  
Tell beauty how she blasteth,  
Tell favour how it falters:  
And as they shall reply,  
Give every one the lie.

So when thou hast, as I  
Commanded thee, done blabbing:  
Because to give the lie  
Deserves no less than stabbing,  
Stab at thee he that will,  
No stab thy soul can kill.

\* *mission.*

*Walter Raleigh.*

## WRITTEN ON THE EVE OF HIS EXECUTION

Even such is Time, that takes in trust  
Our youth, our joys, our all we have,  
And pays us but with earth and dust;  
Who, in the dark and silent grave,  
When we have wandered all our ways,  
Shuts up the story of our days;  
But from this earth, this grave, this dust,  
My God shall raise me up, I trust.

*Walter Raleigh.*

## ON SIR WALTER RALEIGH AT HIS EXECUTION

Great heart, who taught thee so to die,  
Death yielding thee the victory?  
Where took'st thou leave of life? If there,  
How could'st thou be so freed from fear?  
But sure thou di'st and quit'st the state  
Of flesh and blood before thy fate.  
Else what a miracle were wrought,  
To triumph both in flesh and thought.  
I saw in every stander-by  
Pale death—life only in thine eye.  
The example that thou left'st was then,  
We look for when thou di'st agen.  
Farewell! truth shall thy story say:  
We died; thou only liv'dst that day.

*Anon. 17th Cent.*

## THE RELIC

When my grave is broke up again  
Some second guest to entertain,  
(For graves have learned that womanhead  
To be to more than one a bed)

And he that digs it spies  
A bracelet of bright hair about the bone,  
Will he not let us alone,  
And think that there a loving couple lies,  
Who thought that this device might be some way  
To make their souls, at the last busy day,  
Meet at this grave, and make a little stay?

If this fall in a time, or land,  
Where mis-devotion doth command,  
Then he that digs us up will bring  
Us to the Bishop, and the King,

To make us relics; then  
Thou shalt be a Mary Magdalen, and I  
A something else thereby;  
All women shall adore us, and some men;  
And since, at such time, miracles are sought,  
I would have that age by this paper taught  
What miracles we harmless lovers wrought.

First, we loved well and faithfully,  
Yet knew not what we loved, nor why,  
Difference of sex no more we knew  
Than our Guardian Angels do;

Coming and going, we  
Perchance might kiss, but not between these meals;  
Our hands ne'er touched the seals,  
Which nature, injured by late law, sets free:  
These miracles we did; but now alas,  
All measure, and all language, I should pass  
Should I tell what a miracle she was.

*John Donne.*

## SONG

Sweetest love, I do not go  
For weariness of thee,  
Nor in hope the world can show  
A fitter love for me:  
But since that I  
Must die at last, 'tis best  
To use myself in jest  
Thus by feigned deaths to die.

Yesternight the sun went hence,  
And yet is here today;  
He hath no desire nor sense,  
Nor half so short a way:  
Then fear not me,  
But believe that I shall make  
Speedier journeys, since I take  
More wings and spurs than he.

O how feeble is man's power,  
That if good fortune fall  
Cannot add another hour,  
Nor a lost hour recall!

But come bad chance,  
And we join to it our strength,  
And we teach it art and length,  
Itself o'er us to advance.

When thou sigh'st, thou sigh'st not wind,  
But sigh'st my soul away;  
When thou weep'st, unkindly kind,  
My life's blood doth decay.

It cannot be  
That thou lov'st me, as thou say'st,  
If in thine my life thou waste,  
That art the best of me.

Let not thy divining heart  
Forethink me any ill;  
Destiny may take thy part,  
And may thy fears fulfill;  
But think that we  
Are but turned aside to sleep;  
They who one another keep  
Alive, ne'er parted be.

*John Donne.*

## HOLY SONNETS

### I

Thou hast made me: and shall thy work decay?  
Repair me now, for now mine end doth haste;  
I run to death, and death meets me as fast,  
And all my pleasures are like yesterday;  
I dare not move my dim eyes any way,  
Despair behind, and death before doth cast  
Such terror, and my feeble flesh doth waste  
By sin in it, which it towards hell doth weigh;  
Only thou art above, and when towards thee  
By thy leave I can look, I rise again;  
But our old subtle foe so tempteth me,  
That not one hour my self I can sustain;  
Thy grace may wing me to prevent his art.  
And thou like adamant draw mine iron heart.

### VII

At the round earth's imagined corners, blow  
Your trumpets, Angels, and arise, arise  
From death, you numberless infinities  
Of souls, and to your scattered bodies go,  
All whom the flood did, and fire shall o'erthrow,  
All whom war, dearth, age, agues, tyrannies,  
Despair, law, chance, hath slain, and you whose eyes  
Shall behold God, and never taste death's woe.  
But let them sleep, Lord, and me mourn a space,  
For, if above all these, my sins abound,  
'Tis late to ask abundance of thy grace,  
When we are there; here on this lowly ground  
Teach me how to repent; for that's as good  
As if thou hadst sealed my pardon with thy blood.

## XIV

Batter my heart, three-personed God; for you  
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;  
That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend  
Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.  
I, like an usurped town, to another due,  
Labour to admit you, but O, to no end;  
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,  
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.  
Yet dearly I love you, and would be loved fain,  
But am betrothed unto your enemy:  
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,  
Take me to you, imprison me, for I  
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,  
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

*John Donne.*

## ALL THE FLOWERS OF THE SPRING

All the flowers of the Spring  
Meet to perfume our burying;  
These have but their growing prime,  
And man does flourish but his time.  
Survey our progress from our birth—  
We are set, we grow, we turn to earth.  
Courts, adieu, and all delights,  
All bewitching appetites!  
Sweetest breath and clearest eye  
Like perfumes go out and die;  
And consequently this is done  
As shadows wait upon the sun.  
Vain the ambition of kings  
Who seek by trophies and dead things  
To leave a living name behind,  
And weave but nets to catch the wind.

*John Webster.*

## PASSING BY

There is a lady sweet and kind,  
Was never face so pleased my mind:  
I did but see her passing by,  
And yet I love her till I die.

Her gesture, motion, and her smiles,  
Her wit, her voice, my heart beguiles,  
Beguiles my heart, I know not why,  
And yet I love her till I die.

Her free behaviour, winning looks,  
Will make a lawyer burn his books;  
I touched her not, alas! not I,  
And yet I love her till I die.

Had I her fast betwixt mine arms,  
Judge you, that think such sports were harms,  
Were't any harm? no, no, fie, fie,  
For I will love her till I die.

Should I remain confinèd there  
So long as Phoebus in his sphere,  
I to request, she to deny,  
Yet would I love her till I die.

Cupid is wingèd and doth range,  
Her country so my love doth change:  
But change she earth, or change she sky,  
Yet will I love her till I die.

*Anon. 17th Cent.*

## SO SHUTS THE MARIGOLD

Marina's gone, and now sit I—  
As Philomela, on a thorn,  
Turned out of nature's livery—  
Mirthless, alone, and all forlorn:  
Only she sings not, while my sorrows can  
Breathe forth such notes as fit a dying swan.

So shuts the marigold her leaves  
At the departure of the sun;  
So from the honeysuckle sheaves  
The bee goes when the day is done;  
So sits the turtle when she is but one,  
And so all woe, as I, since she is gone.

To some few birds kind Nature hath  
Made all the summer as one day;  
Which once enjoyed, cold winter's wrath  
As night they sleeping pass away.  
Those happy creatures are, that know not yet  
The pain to be deprived or to forget.

I oft have heard men say there be  
Some that with confidence profess  
The helpful Art of Memory;  
But could they teach Forgetfulness,  
I'd learn, and try what further art could do  
To make me love her and forget her too.

*William Browne.*

## FAIR IS THE ROSE

Fair is the rose, yet fades with heat or cold.  
Sweet are the violets, yet soon grow old.  
The lily's white, yet in one day 'tis done.  
White is the snow, yet melts against the sun.  
So white, so sweet was my fair mistress' face,  
Yet altered quite in one short hour's space.  
So short-lived beauty a vain gloss doth borrow,  
Breathing delight today, but none tomorrow.

*Anon. 17th Cent.*

## MAN'S MORTALITY

Like as the damask rose you see,  
Or like the blossom on the tree,  
Or like the dainty flower in May,  
Or like the morning of the day,  
Or like the sun, or like the shade,  
Or like the gourd which Jonas had—  
Even such is man: whose thread is spun,  
Drawn out and cut, and so is done.  
The rose withers, the blossom blasteth;  
The flower fades, the morning hasteth;  
The sun sets, the shadow flies;  
The gourd consumes; and man he dies.

Like to the grass that's newly sprung,  
Or like a tale that's new begun,  
Or like the bird that's here today,  
Or like the pearlèd dew of May,  
Or like an hour, or like a span,  
Or like the singing of a swan—  
Even such is man; who lives by breath,  
Is here, now there, in life, and death.  
The grass withers, the tale is ended;  
The bird is flown, the dew's ascended;  
The hour is short, the span not long;  
The swan's near death; man's life is done.

Like to the bubble in the brook,  
Or, in a glass, much like a look;  
Or like a shuttle in weaver's hand,  
Or like the writing on the sand,  
Or like a thought, or like a dream,  
Or like the gliding of the stream—  
Even such is man, who lives by breath,  
Is here, now there, in life, and death;  
The bubble's cut, the look's forgot;  
The shuttle's flung, the writing's blot;  
The thought is past, the dream is gone;  
The water glides; man's life is done.

*Simon Wastell (?)*

## THE COLLAR

I struck the board, and cried, "No more!  
I will abroad.

What, shall I ever sigh and pine?  
My lines and life are free; free as the road,  
Loose as the wind, as large as store.

Shall I be still in suit?  
Have I no harvest but a thorn  
To let me blood, and not restore  
What I have lost with cordial fruit?

Sure there was wine  
Before my sighs did dry it: there was corn  
Before my tears did drown it.

Is the year only lost to me?

Have I no bays to crown it?  
No flowers? No garlands gay? All blasted?  
All wasted?

Not so, my heart; but there is fruit,  
And thou hast hands.

Recover all thy sigh-blown age  
On double pleasures, leave thy cold dispute  
Of what is fit and not; forsake thy cage,  
Thy rope of sands,

Which petty thoughts have made, and made to thee  
Good cable, to enforce and draw,  
And be thy law,  
While thou didst wink and wouldest not see.

Away; take heed:  
I will abroad.

Call in thy death's head there: tie up thy fears.  
He that forbears

To suit and serve his need,  
Deserves his load."

But as I raved and grew more fierce and wild  
At every word,  
Methought I heard one calling "Child!"  
And I replied, "My Lord!"

*George Herbert.*

## TO A VERY YOUNG LADY \*

Why came I so untimely forth  
Into a world which, wanting thee,  
Could entertain us with no worth  
Or shadow of felicity,  
That time should me so far remove  
From that which I was born to love?

Yet, fairest blossom, do not slight  
That age which you may know so soon;  
The rosy morn resigns her light  
And milder glory to the noon,  
And then what wonders shall you do  
Whose dawning beauty warms us so?

Hope waits upon the flowery prime;  
And Summer, though it be less gay,  
Yet is not looked on as a time  
Of declination or decay;  
For with a full hand that does bring  
All that was promised by the Spring.

\* *Lady Lucy Sidney.*

*Edmund Waller.*

## THE SPRING OF JOY

The spring of joy is dry  
That ran into my heart;  
And all my comforts fly:  
My love and I must part.  
Farewell, my love, I go,  
If fate will have it so.  
Yet to content us both  
Return again, as doth  
The shadow to the hour,  
The bee unto the flower,  
The fish unto the hook,  
The cattle to the brook,  
That we may sport our fill,  
And love continue still.

*Anon. 17th Cent.*

## LATE SPRING

Who would have thought my shrivelled heart  
Could have recovered greenness? It was gone  
Quite under ground: as flowers depart  
To see their mother root when they have blown,  
    Where they together,  
    All the hard weather,  
Dead to the world, keep house unknown.

These are thy wonders, Lord of Power,  
Killing and quickening, bringing down to hell  
And up to heaven in an hour;  
Making a chiming of a passing-bell.  
    We said amiss  
    This or that is:  
Thy word is all, if we could spell.

And now in age I bud again;  
After so many deaths I live and write;  
I once more smell the dew and rain  
And relish versing—O my only Light!  
    It cannot be  
    That I am he  
On whom thy tempests fell all night.

*George Herbert.*

## A GOOD-NIGHT

Close now thine eyes, and rest secure;  
Thy soul is safe enough, thy body sure;  
    He that loves thee, he that keeps  
And guards thee, never slumbers, never sleeps.  
The smiling Conscience in a sleeping breast  
    Has only peace, has only rest:  
    The music and the mirth of kings  
Are all but very discords, when she sings.  
    Then close thine eyes and rest secure;  
No sleep so sweet as thine, no rest so sure.

*Francis Quarles.*

## ON THE ROSE

Go, lovely rose!  
Tell her that wastes her time and me  
That now she knows,  
When I resemble her to thee,  
How sweet and fair she seems to be.

Tell her that's young,  
And shuns to have her graces spied,  
That hadst thou sprung  
In deserts, where no men abide,  
Thou must have uncommended died.

Small is the worth  
Of beauty from the light retired;  
Bid her come forth,  
Suffer herself to be desired,  
And not blush so to be admired.

Then die! that she  
The common fate of all things rare  
May read in thee;  
How small a part of time they share  
That are so wondrous sweet and fair!

*Edmund Waller.*

## SONG

In mine own monument I lie,  
And in my self am burièd;  
Sure the quick lightning of her eye  
Melted my soul i' the scabbard, dead;  
And now like some pale ghost I walk,  
And with another's spirit talk.

Nor can her beams a heat convey  
That may my frozen bosom warm,  
Unless her smiles have power, as they  
That a cross charm can countercharm;  
But this is such a pleasing pain,  
I'm loth to be alive again.

*Richard Lovelace.*

## TO ALTHEA, FROM PRISON\*

When Love with unconfined wings  
    Hovers within my gates,  
And my divine Althea brings  
    To whisper at the grates;  
When I lie tangled in her hair,  
    And fettered to her eye;  
The gods that wanton in the air  
    Know no such liberty.

When flowing cups run swiftly round  
    With no allaying Thames,  
Our careless heads with roses bound,  
    Our hearts with loyal flames;  
When thirsty grief in wine we steep,  
    When healths and draughts go free,  
Fishes that tipple in the deep  
    Know no such liberty.

When, like committed linnets, I  
    With shriller throat shall sing  
The sweetness, mercy, majesty  
    And glories of my King;  
When I shall voice aloud how good  
    He is, how great should be;  
Enlargèd winds that curl the flood  
    Know no such liberty.

Stone walls do not a prison make,  
    Nor iron bars a cage;  
Minds innocent and quiet take  
    That for an hermitage;  
If I have freedom in my love,  
    And in my soul am free,  
Angels alone that soar above  
    Enjoy such liberty.

*Richard Lovelace.*

\*“*Captaine Louelace made this poem in his duresse at the Gatehouse.*”

## WE MUST NOT PART

We must not part, as others do,  
With sighs and tears, as we were two.  
Though with these outward forms we part,  
We keep each other in our heart.  
What search hath found a being, where  
I am not, if that thou be there?

True love hath wings, and can as soon  
Survey the world, as sun or moon;  
And everywhere our triumphs keep  
Over absence, which makes others weep:  
By which alone a power is given  
To live on earth, as they in heaven.

*Anon. 17th Cent.*

## ON HIS BLINDNESS

When I consider how my light is spent,  
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,  
And that one Talent, which is death to hide,  
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent  
To serve therewith my Māker, and present  
My true account, lest he returning chide—  
“Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?”  
I fondly ask; but patience to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, “God doth not need  
Either man’s work or his own gifts; who best  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state  
Is kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed  
And post o’er land and ocean without rest:  
They also serve who only stand and wait.”

*John Milton.*

### SONG FROM "ARCADES"

O'er the smooth enamelled green,  
Where no print of step hath been,  
Follow me, as I sing  
And touch the warbled string.  
Under the shady roof  
Of branching elm, star-proof,  
Follow me:  
I will bring you where she sits,  
Clad in splendour as befits  
Her deity.  
Such a rural Queen  
All Arcadia hath not seen.

*John Milton.*

### OF TIME

Let us use time whilst we may;  
Snatch those joys that haste away!  
Earth her winter coat may cast,  
And renew her beauties past;  
But, our winter come, in vain  
We solicit spring again;  
And when our furrows snow shall cover,  
Love may return, but never lover.

*Richard Fanshawe.*

### ON THE NEEDLE OF A DIAL

Behold this needle, when the Arctic stone  
Had touched it, how it trembles up and down,  
Hunts for the Pole, and cannot be possessed  
Of peace, until it find that point, that rest:  
Such is the heart of man, which when it hath  
Attained the virtue of a lively faith,  
It finds no rest on earth, makes no abode,  
In any object, but his heaven, his God.

*Francis Quarles.*

## ON MAY MORNING

Now the bright Morning Star, day's harbinger,  
Comes dancing from the east, and leads with her  
The flowery May, who from her green lap throws  
The yellow cowslip, and the pale primrose.

Hail, bounteous May! that dost inspire  
Mirth and youth, and warm desire.  
Woods and groves are of thy dressing.  
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.

Thus we salute thee with our early song,  
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.

*John Milton.*

## SONG

Love and harmony combine,  
And around our souls entwine,  
While thy branches mix with mine  
And our roots together join.

Joys upon our branches sit,  
Chirping loud, and singing sweet;  
Like gentle streams beneath our feet  
Innocence and virtue meet.

Thou the golden fruit dost bear,  
I am clad in flowers fair;  
Thy sweet boughs perfume the air,  
And the turtle buildeth there.

There she sits and feeds her young.  
Sweet I hear her mournful song;  
And thy lovely leaves among  
There is love: I hear her tongue.

There his charming nest doth lay,  
There he sleeps the night away;  
There he sports along the day,  
And doth among our branches play.

*William Blake.*

## TO SPRING

O thou with dewy locks, who lookest down  
Through the clear windows of the morning, turn  
Thine angel eyes upon our western isle,  
Which in full choir hails thy approach, O Spring!

The hills tell each other, and the listening  
Valleys hear; all our longing eyes are turned  
Up to thy bright pavilions: issue forth,  
And let thy holy feet visit our clime.

Come o'er the eastern hills, and let our winds  
Kiss thy perfumèd garments; let us taste  
Thy morn and evening breath; scatter thy pearls  
Upon our love-sick land that mourns for thee.

O deck her forth with thy fair fingers; pour  
Thy soft kisses on her bosom; and put  
Thy golden crown upon her languished head  
Whose modest tresses were bound up for thee.

*William Blake.*

## NEVER SEEK TO TELL

Never seek to tell thy love  
Love that never told can be,  
For the gentle wind does move  
Silently, invisibly.

I told my love, I told my love,  
I told her all my heart;  
Trembling, cold, in ghastly fears,  
Ah! she doth depart.

Soon as she was gone from me,  
A traveller came by,  
Silently, invisibly:  
He took her with a sigh.

*William Blake.*

\* \* \*

WRITTEN IN EARLY SPRING 1798

I heard a thousand blended notes  
While in a grove I sat reclined,  
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts  
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link  
The human soul that through me ran;  
And much it grieved my heart to think  
What Man has made of Man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,  
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths,  
And 'tis my belief that every flower  
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played—  
Their thoughts I cannot measure—  
But the least motion which they made  
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan  
To catch the breezy air,  
And I must think, do all I can,  
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,  
If such be Nature's holy plan,  
Have I not reason to lament  
What Man has made of Man?

*William Wordsworth.*

## THE SOLITARY REAPER

Behold her, single in the field,  
Yon solitary highland lass,  
Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here, or gently pass!  
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,  
And sings a melancholy strain;  
O listen! for the Vale profound  
Is overflowing with the sound.

No nightingale did ever chaunt  
More welcome notes to weary bands  
Of travellers in some shady haunt  
Among Arabian sands:  
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard  
In spring-time from the cuckoo-bird,  
Breaking the silence of the seas  
Among the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings?—  
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow  
For old, unhappy, far-off things,  
And battles long ago:  
Or is it some more humble lay,  
Familiar matter of today?  
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,  
That has been and may be again?

Whate'er the theme, the maiden sang  
As if her song could have no ending;  
I saw her singing at her work,  
And o'er the sickle bending—  
I listened, motionless and still;  
And, as I mounted up the hill,  
The music in my heart I bore,  
Long after it was heard no more.

*William Wordsworth.*

## THE INNER VISION

Most sweet it is with unuplifted eyes  
To pace the ground, if path be there or none,  
While a fair region round the traveller lies  
Which he forbears again to look upon,  
Pleased rather with some soft ideal scene,  
The work of fancy, or some happy tone  
Of meditation, slipping in between  
The beauty coming and the beauty gone.  
If Thought and Love desert us, from that day  
Let us break off all commerce with the Muse.  
With Thought and Love companions of our way—  
Whate'er the senses take or may refuse—  
The mind's internal heaven shall shed her dews  
Of inspiration on the humblest lay.

*William Wordsworth.*

## O! IT IS PLEASANT

O! it is pleasant, with a heart at ease,  
Just after sunset or by moonlight skies,  
To make the shifting clouds be what you please;  
Or let the easily persuaded eyes  
Own each quaint likeness issuing from the mould  
Of a friend's fancy; or with head bent low  
And cheek aslant see rivers flow with gold  
'Twixt crimson banks; and then, a traveller, go  
From mount to mount through Cloudland—gorgeous  
land!—  
Or listening to the tide, with closed sight,  
Be that blind bard, who, on the Chian strand  
By those deep sounds possessed with inward light,  
Beheld the Iliad and the Odyssey  
Rise to the swelling of the voiceful sea.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge.*

## KUBLA KHAN\*

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan  
A stately pleasure-dome decree:  
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran  
Through caverns measureless to man  
    Down to a sunless sea.

So twice five miles of fertile ground  
With walls and towers were girdled round:  
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,  
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;  
And here were forests ancient as the hills,  
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.

But oh! that deep romantic chasm which slanted  
Down the green hill athwart a cedar cover!  
A savage place! as holy and enchanted  
As e'er beneath a waning moon was haunted  
By woman wailing for her demon-lover!  
And from this chasm, with ceaseless turmoil seething,  
As if this earth is fast thick pants were breathing,  
A mighty fountain momently was forced:  
Amid whose swift half-intermittent burst  
Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding hail,  
Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher's flail:  
And 'mid these dancing rocks at once and ever  
It flung up momently the sacred river.  
Five miles meandering with a mazy motion  
Through wood and dale the sacred river ran,  
Then reached the caverns measureless to man,  
And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean:  
And 'mid this tumult Kubla heard from far  
Ancestral voices prophesying war!

The shadow of the dome of pleasure  
Floated midway on the waves;  
Where was heard the mingled measure  
From the fountain and the caves.  
It was a miracle of rare device,  
A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice!

A damsel with a dulcimer  
In a vision once I saw:  
It was an Abyssinian maid,  
And on her dulcimer she played,  
Singing of Mount Abora.  
Could I revive within me  
Her symphony and song,  
To such a deep delight 'twould win me  
That with music loud and long  
I would build that dome in air,  
That sunny dome! those caves of ice!  
And all who heard should see them there,  
And all should cry, Beware! Beware!  
His flashing eyes, his floating hair!  
Weave a circle round him thrice,  
And close your eyes with holy dread,  
For he on honey-dew hath fed,  
And drunk the milk of Paradise.

\* *Here the Khan Kubla commanded a palace to be built, and a stately garden thereunto. . . .*

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge.*

### WE'LL GO NO MORE A-ROVING

So, we'll go no more a-roving  
So late into the night,  
Though the heart be still as loving,  
And the moon be still as bright.

For the sword outwears its sheath,  
And the soul wears out the breast,  
And the heart must pause to breathe,  
And love itself have rest.

Though the night was made for loving,  
And the day returns too soon,  
Yet we'll go no more a-roving  
By the light of the moon.

*George Gordon Byron.*

## INVOCATION

Rarely, rarely, comest thou,  
Spirit of Delight!  
Wherefore hast thou left me now  
Many a day and night?  
Many a weary night and day  
'Tis since thou art fled away.

How shall ever one like me  
Win thee back again?  
With the joyous and the free  
Thou wilt scoff at pain.  
Spirit false! thou hast forgot  
All but those who need thee not.

As a lizard with the shade  
Of a trembling leaf,  
Thou with sorrow art dismayed;  
Even the sighs of grief  
Reproach thee, that thou art not near,  
And reproach thou wilt not hear.

Let me set my mournful ditty  
To a merry measure;  
Thou wilt never come for pity,  
Thou wilt come for pleasure;  
Pity then will cut away  
Those cruel wings, and thou wilt stay.

I love all that thou lovest,  
Spirit of Delight!  
The fresh Earth in new leaves dressed,  
And the starry night;  
Autumn evening, and the morn  
When the golden mists are born.

I love snow, and all the forms  
Of the radiant frost;  
I love waves, and winds, and storms—  
Everything almost  
Which is Nature's, and may be  
Untainted by man's misery.

I love tranquil solitude,  
And such society  
As is quiet, wise, and good;  
Between thee and me  
What difference?—but thou dost possess  
The things I seek, not love them less.

I love Love—though he has wings,  
And like light can flee;  
But above all other things,  
Spirit, I love thee—  
Thou art love and life! O come,  
Make once more my heart thy home!

*Percy Bysshe Shelley.*

### ON A FADED VIOLET

The odour from the flower is gone  
Which like thy kisses breathed on me;  
The colour from the flower is flown  
Which glowed of thee and only thee!

A shrivelled, lifeless, vacant form,  
It lies on my abandoned breast,  
And mocks the heart which yet is warm,  
With cold and silent rest.

I weep—my tears revive it not!  
I sigh—it breathes no more on me;  
Its mute and uncomplaining lot  
Is such as mine should be.

*Percy Bysshe Shelley.*

## TO THE WEST WIND\*

O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being—  
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead  
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,  
Yellow and black, and pale, and hectic red,  
Pestilence-stricken multitudes—O thou,  
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed  
The wingèd seeds, where they lie cold and low,  
Each like a corpse within its grave, until  
Thine azure sister of the Spring shall blow  
Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and fill  
(Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed in air)  
With living hues and odours plain and hill—  
Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere,  
Destroyer and preserver—hear, oh, hear!

Thou on whose stream, 'mid the steep sky's commotion,  
Loose clouds like earth's decaying leaves are shed,  
Shook from the tangled boughs of Heaven and Ocean,  
Angels of rain and lightning: there are spread  
On the blue surface of thine aëry surge,  
Like the bright hair uplifted from the head  
Of some fierce Mænad, even from the dim verge  
Of the horizon to the zenith's height,  
The locks of the approaching storm. Thou dirge  
Of the dying year, to which this closing night  
Will be the dome of a vast sepulchre  
Vaulted with all thy congregated might  
Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere  
Black rain, and fire, and hail will burst—oh, hear!

Thou who didst waken from his summer dreams  
The blue Mediterranean, where he lay,  
Lulled by the coil of his crystalline streams,  
Beside a pumice isle in Baiae's bay,  
And saw in sleep old palaces and towers  
Quivering within the wave's intenser day,  
All overgrown with azure moss, and flowers  
So sweet, the sense faints picturing them!—Thou  
For whose path the Atlantic's level powers  
Cleave themselves into chasms, while far below

The sea-blooms, and the oozy woods which wear  
The sapless foliage of the ocean, know  
Thy voice, and suddenly grow gray with fear,  
And tremble and despoil themselves—oh, hear!

If I were a dead leaf thou mightest bear;  
If I were a swift cloud to fly with thee;  
A wave to pant beneath thy power, and share  
The impulse of thy strength, only less free  
Than thou, O uncontrollable! If even  
I were as in my boyhood, and could be  
The comrade of thy wanderings over Heaven,  
As then, when to outstrip thy skiey speed  
Scarce seemed a vision; I would ne'er have striven  
As thus with thee in prayer in my sore need.  
Oh, lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!  
I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!  
A heavy weight of hours has chained and bowed  
One too like thee: tameless, and swift, and proud.

Make me thy lyre, even as the forest is:  
What if my leaves are falling like its own!  
The tumult of thy mighty harmonies  
Will take from both a deep autumnal tone,  
Sweet though in sadness. Be thou, Spirit fierce,  
My spirit!—Be thou me, impetuous one!  
Drive my dead thoughts over the universe  
Like withered leaves to quicken a new birth!  
And, by the incantation of this verse,  
Scatter, as from an unextinguished hearth  
Ashes and sparks, my words among mankind!  
Be through my lips to unawakened earth  
The trumpet of a prophecy: O Wind,  
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

\* *This poem was conceived and chiefly written in a wood that skirts the Arno, near Florence. . . .*

*Percy Bysshe Shelley.*

TO —

Music, when soft voices die,  
Vibrates in the memory—  
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,  
Live within the sense they quicken.  
Rose-leaves, when the rose is dead,  
Are heaped for the belovèd's bed;  
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,  
Love itself shall slumber on.

*Percy Bysshe Shelley.*

### LOVE CANNOT DIE

In crime and enmity they lie  
Who sin and tell us love can die,  
Who say to us in slander's breath  
That love belongs to sin and death.  
From heaven it came on angel's wing  
To bloom on earth, eternal Spring;  
In falsehood's enmity they lie  
Who sin and tell us love can die.

'Twas born upon an angel's breast.  
The softest dreams, the sweetest rest,  
The brightest sun, the bluest sky,  
Are love's own home and canopy.  
The thought that cheers this heart of mine  
Is that of love—love so divine  
They sin who say in slander's breath  
That love belongs to sin and death.

The sweetest voice that lips contain,  
The sweetest thought that leaves the brain,  
The sweetest feeling of the heart—  
There's pleasure in its very smart.  
The scent of rose and cinnamon  
Is not like love remembered on;  
In falsehood's enmity they lie  
Who sin and tell us love can die.

*John Clare*

## SPRING'S MESSENGERS

Where slanting banks are always with the sun  
The daisy is in blossom even now;  
And where warm patches by the hedges run  
The cottager when coming home from plough  
Brings home a cowslip root in flower to set.  
Thus ere the Christmas goes the Spring is met  
Setting up little tents about the fields  
In sheltered spots.—Primroses when they get  
Behind the wood's old roots, where ivy shields  
Their crimped, curdled leaves, will shine and hide.  
Cart-ruts and horses' footings scarcely yield  
A slur for boys, just crizzled and that's all.  
Frost shoots his needles by the small dyke side,  
And snow in scarce a feather's seen to fall.

*John Clare.*

## EARLY NIGHTINGALE

When first we hear the shy-come nightingales,  
They seem to mutter o'er their songs in fear,  
And, climb we e'er so soft the spinney rails,  
All stops as if no bird was anywhere.  
The kindled bushes with the young leaves thin  
Let curious eyes to search a long way in,  
Until impatience cannot see or hear  
The hidden music; gets but little way  
Upon the path—when up the songs begin,  
Full loud a moment and then low again.  
But when a day or two confirms her stay  
Boldly she sings and loud for half the day;  
And soon the village brings the woodman's tale  
Of having heard the newcome nightingale.

*John Clare.*

## TO A NIGHTINGALE

My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pains  
    My sense, as though of hemlock I had drunk,  
Or emptied some dull opiate to the drains  
    One minute past, and Lethe-wards had sunk.  
'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot,  
    But being too happy in thine happiness,  
    That thou, light-wingèd Dryad of the trees,  
        In some melodious plot  
    Of beechen green, and shadows numberless,  
        Singest of summer in full-throated ease.

O, for a draught of vintage! that hath been  
    Cooled a long age in the deep-delvèd earth,  
Tasting of Flora and the country green,  
    Dance, and Provençal song, and sunburnt mirth!  
O, for a beaker full of the warm South,  
    Full of the true, the blushing Hippocrène,  
        With beaded bubbles winking at the brim,  
        And purple-stainèd mouth;  
    That I might drink, and leave the world unseen,  
        And with thee fade away into the forest dim—

Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget  
    What thou among the leaves hast never known—  
The weariness, the fever, and the fret  
    Here, where men sit and hear each other groan;  
Where palsy shakes a few, sad, last gray hairs,  
    Where youth grows pale, and spectre-thin, and dies;  
    Where but to think is to be full of sorrow  
        And leaden-eyed despairs;  
Where Beauty cannot keep her lustrous eyes,  
    Or new Love pine at them beyond tomorrow.

Away! away! for I will fly to thee,  
    Not charioted by Bacchus and his 'pards,  
But on the viewless wings of Poesy,  
    Though the dull brain perplexes and retards:  
Already with thee! tender is the night,  
    And haply the Queen-Moon is on her throne,  
        Clustered around by all her starry Fays;  
        But here there is no light,  
Save what from heaven is with the breezes blown  
    Through verdurous glooms and winding mossy ways.

I cannot see what flowers are at my feet,  
Nor what soft incense hangs upon the boughs,  
But, in embalmèd darkness, guess each sweet  
Wherewith the seasonable month endows  
The grass, the thicket, and the fruit-tree wild;  
White hawthorn, and the pastoral eglantine;  
Fast fading violets covered up in leaves;  
And mid-May's eldest child,  
The coming musk-rose, full of dewy wine,  
The murmurous haunt of flies on summer eves.

Darkling I listen; and, for many a time,  
I have been half in love with easeful Death,  
Called him soft names in many a musèd rhyme,  
To take into the air my quiet breath;  
Now more than ever seems it rich to die,  
To cease upon the midnight with no pain,  
While thou art pouring forth thy soul abroad  
In such an acstacy!  
Still would'st thou sing, and I have ears in vain—  
To thy high requiem become a sod.

Thou wast not born for death, immortal bird!  
No hungry generations tread thee down;  
The voice I hear this passing night was heard  
In ancient days by emperor and clown—  
Perhaps the self-same song that found a path  
Through the sad heart of Ruth, when, sick for home,  
She stood in tears amid the alien corn;  
The same that oft-times hath  
Charmed magic casements, opening on the foam  
Of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn.

Forlorn!—the very word is like a bell  
To toll me back from thee to my sole self!  
Adieu! the fancy cannot cheat so well  
As she is famed to do, deceiving elf.  
Adieu! adieu! thy plaintive anthem fades  
Past the near meadows, over the still stream,  
Up the hill-side; and now 'tis buried deep  
In the next valley-glades:  
Was it a vision, or a waking dream?  
Fled is that music—Do I wake or sleep?

*John Keats.*

## IN DREAR-NIGHTED DECEMBER

In drear-nighted December,  
    Too happy, happy tree,  
Thy branches ne'er remember  
    Their green felicity:  
    The north cannot undo them,  
With a sleety whistle through them;  
Nor frozen thawings glue them  
    From budding at the prime.

In drear-nighted December,  
    Too happy, happy brook,  
Thy bubblings ne'er remember  
    Apollo's summer look:  
    But with a sweet forgetting,  
They stay their crystal fretting,  
Never, never letting  
    About the frozen time.

Ah! would 'twere so with many  
    A gentle girl and boy!  
But were there ever any  
    Writhed not at passèd joy?  
The feel of *not* to feel it,  
When there is none to heal it,  
Nor numbed sense to steel it.  
    Was never said in rhyme.

*John Keats.*

## WHAT THE THRUSH SAID

O thou, whose face hath felt the Winter's wind,  
Whose eye has seen the snow-clouds hung in mist,  
And the black elm-tops 'mong the freezing stars—  
To thee the Spring will be a harvest-time.  
O thou, whose only book has been the light  
Of supreme darkness which thou feddest on  
Night after night when Phoebus was away—  
To thee the Spring shall be a triple morn.  
O fret not after knowledge—I have none,  
And yet my song comes native with the warmth.  
O fret not after knowledge—I have none,  
And yet the Evening listens. He who saddens  
At thought of idleness cannot be idle,  
And he's awake who thinks himself asleep.

*John Keats.*

## TO SLEEP

O soft embalmer of the still midnight,  
Shutting, with careful fingers and benign,  
Our gloom-pleased eyes, embowered from the light,  
Enshaded in forgetfulness divine:  
O soothest Sleep! if so it please thee, close  
In midst of this thine hymn my willing eyes.  
Or wait the "Amen" ere thy poppy throws  
Around my bed its lulling charities.  
Then save me, or the passèd day will shine  
Upon my pillow, breeding many woes—  
Save me from curious Conscience, that still hoards  
Its strength for darkness, burrowing like a mole;  
Turn the key deftly in the oiled wards,  
And seal the hushèd casket of my soul.

*John Keats.*

## LA BELLE DAME SANS MERCI \*

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,  
Alone and palely loitering?  
The sedge is withered from the lake,  
And no birds sing.

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,  
So haggard and so woe-begone?  
The squirrel's granary is full,  
And the harvest's done.

I see a lily on thy brow,  
With anguish moist and fever dew;  
And on thy cheek a fading rose  
Fast withereth too. . . .

“ I met a Lady in the meads,  
Full beautiful, a faery's child;  
Her hair was long, her foot was light,  
And her eyes were wild.

I made a garland for her head,  
And bracelets too, and fragrant zone;  
She looked at me as she did love,  
And made sweet moan.

I set her on my pacing steed  
And nothing else saw all day long,  
For sidelong would she lean, and sing  
A faery's song.

She found me roots of relish sweet,  
And honey wild, and manna dew;  
And sure in language strange she said  
‘ I love thee true.’

She took me to her elfin grot,  
And there she wept, and sighed full sore,  
And there I shut her wild wild eyes  
With kisses four.

\*\**He played an ancient ditty long since mute,  
In Provence called, ‘La belle dame sans mercy.’*”

And there she lullèd me asleep,  
And there I dreamed—ah! woe betide!  
The latest dream I ever dreamed  
On the cold hill side.

I saw pale Kings, and Princes too,  
Pale warriors, death-pale were they all;  
They cried—‘La belle Dame sans Merci  
Thee hath in thrall!’

I saw their starved lips in the gloam  
With horrid warning gapèd wide,  
And I awoke, and found me here  
On the cold hill’s side.

And this is why I sojourn here  
Alone and palely loitering,  
Though the sedge is withered from the lake  
And no birds sing.”

*John Keats.*

### ON DEATH

Can death be sleep, when life is but a dream,  
And scenes of bliss pass as a phantom by?  
The transient pleasures as a vision seem,  
And yet we think the greatest pain’s to die.

How strange it is that man on earth should roam,  
And lead a life of woe, but not forsake  
His rugged path; nor dare he view alone  
His future doom which is but to awake.

*John Keats.*

## REMEMBRANCE

Cold in the earth—and the deep snow piled above thee,  
Far, far removed, cold in the dreary grave!  
Have I forgot, my only love, to love thee,  
Severed at last by Time's all-severing wave?

Now, when alone, do my thoughts no longer hover  
Over the mountains on that northern shore,  
Resting their wings where heath and fern-leaves cover  
Thy noble heart for ever, ever more?

Cold in the earth—and fifteen wild Decembers  
From those brown hills have melted into Spring:  
Faithful, indeed, is the spirit that remembers  
After such years of change and suffering!

Sweet love of youth, forgive if I forget thee,  
While the world's tide is bearing me along;  
Other desires and other hopes beset me,  
Hopes which obscure, but cannot do thee wrong!

No later light has lightened up my heaven,  
No second morn has ever shone for me;  
All my life's bliss from thy dear life was given,  
All my life's bliss is in the grave with thee.

But when the days of golden dreams had perished,  
And even Despair was powerless to destroy,  
Then did I learn how existence could be cherished,  
Strengthened and fed without the aid of joy.

Then I did I check the tears of useless passion—  
Weaned my young soul from yearning after thine;  
Sternly denied its burning wish to hasten  
Down to that tomb already more than mine.

And, even yet, I dare not let it languish,  
Dare not indulge in memory's rapturous pain;  
Once drinking deep of that divinest anguish,  
How could I seek the empty world again?

*Emily Brontë.*

## THE CAGED BIRD

And like myself lone, wholly lone,  
It sees the day's long sunshine glow;  
And like myself it makes its moan  
In unexhausted woe.

Give we the hills our equal prayer,  
Earth's breezy hills and heaven's blue sea;  
I ask for nothing further here  
But my own heart and liberty.

Ah! could my hand unlock its chain,  
How gladly would I with it soar;  
And ne'er regret, and ne'er complain  
To see its shining eyes no more.

But let me think that if today  
It pines in cold captivity,  
Tomorrow both shall soar away,  
Eternally, entirely free.

*Emily Brontë.*

## THE APPROACHING STORM

The night is darkening round me,  
The wild winds coldly blow;  
But a tyrant spell has bound me,  
And I cannot, cannot go.

The giant trees are bending  
Their bare boughs weighed with snow,  
The storm is fast descending,  
And yet I cannot go.

Clouds beyond clouds above me,  
Wastes beyond wastes below;  
But nothing dread can move me—  
I will not, cannot go.

*Emily Brontë.*

## OFTEN REBUKED

Often rebuked, yet always back returning  
To those first feelings that were born with me,  
And leaving busy chase of wealth and learning  
For idle dreams of things which cannot be:

Today I will seek not the shadowy region;  
Its unsustaining vastness waxes drear;  
And visions rising, legion after legion,  
Bring the unreal world too strangely near.

I'll walk, but not in old heroic traces,  
And not in paths of high mortality,  
And not among the half-distinguished faces,  
The clouded forms of long-past history.

I'll walk where my own nature would be leading:  
It vexes me to choose another guide:  
Where the grey flocks in ferny glens are feeding;  
Where the wild wind blows on the mountain-side.

What have those lonely mountains worth revealing?  
More glory and more grief than I can tell:  
The earth that wakes one human heart to feeling  
Can centre both the worlds of Heaven and Hell.

*Emily Brontë.*

## NO COWARD SOUL\*

No coward soul is mine,  
No trembler in the world's storm-troubled sphere:  
I see Heaven's glories shine,  
And faith shines equal, arming me from fear.

O God within my breast,  
Almighty, ever-present Deity!  
Life, that in me has rest,  
As I, undying Life, have power in Thee!—

Vain are the thousand creeds  
That move men's hearts: unutterably vain;  
Worthless as withered weeds  
Or idlest froth amid the boundless main

To waken doubt in one  
Holding so fast by Thine infinity;  
So surely anchored on  
The steadfast rock of immortality.

With wide-embracing love  
Thy Spirit animates eternal years,  
Pervades and broods above,  
Changes, sustains, dissolves, creates, and rears.

Though earth and man were gone,  
And suns and universes cease to be,  
And Thou were left alone,  
Every existence would exist in Thee.

There is not room for Death,  
Nor atom that his might could render void:  
Thou—Thou art Being and Breath,  
And what Thou art may never be destroyed.

*Emily Brontë.*

\* *The following are the last lines my sister Emily ever wrote.*—C. B.

## POEMS FROM "IN MEMORIAM"

### LIII

O yet we trust that somehow good  
Will be the final goal of ill,  
To pangs of nature, sins of will,  
Defects of doubt, and taints of blood;  
  
That nothing walks with aimless feet;  
That not one life shall be destroyed,  
Or cast as rubbish to the void,  
When God hath made the pile complete;

That not a worm is cloven in vain;  
That not a moth with vain desire  
Is shrivelled in a fruitless fire,  
Or but subserves another's gain.

Behold, we know not anything;  
I can but trust that good shall fall  
At last—far off—at last, to all,  
And every winter change to spring.

So runs my dream: but what am I?  
An infant crying in the night:  
An infant crying for the light:  
And with no language but a cry.

### CXIII

Now fades the last long streak of snow,  
Now burgeons every maze of quick  
About the flowering squares, and thick  
By ashen roots the violets blow.

Now rings the woodland loud and long,  
The distance takes a lovelier hue,  
And drowned in yonder living blue  
The lark becomes a sightless song.

Now dance the lights on lawn and lea,  
The flocks are whiter down the vale,  
And milkier every milky sail  
On winding stream or distant sea

Where now the seamew pipes, or dives  
In yonder greening gleam, and fly  
The happy birds, that change their sky  
To build and brood, that live their lives  
  
From land to land; and in my breast  
Spring wakens too; and my regret  
Becomes an April violet,  
And buds and blossoms like the rest.

### CXXI

There rolls the deep where grew the tree.  
O earth, what changes hast thou seen!  
There, where the long street roars, hath been  
The stillness of the central sea.

The hills are shadows, and they flow  
From form to form, and nothing stands;  
They melt like mist, the solid lands,  
Like clouds they shape themselves and go.

But in my spirit will I dwell,  
And dream my dream, and hold it true;  
For though my lips may breathe adieu,  
I cannot think the thing farewell.

### CXXV

Love is and was my Lord and King,  
And in his presence I attend  
To hear the tidings of my friend,  
Which every hour his couriers bring.

Love is and was my King and Lord,  
And will be, though as yet I keep  
Within his court on earth, and sleep  
Encompassed by his faithful guard,

And hear at times a sentinel  
Who moves about from place to place,  
And whispers to the worlds of space,  
In the deep night, that all is well.

*Alfred Tennyson.*

## GOD! THOU ART MIND

God! Thou art mind! Unto the master-mind  
Mind should be precious. Spare my mind alone!  
All else I will endure. If as I stand  
Here, with my gains, thy thunder smite me down,  
I bow me; 'tis thy will, thy righteous will;  
I o'erpass life's restrictions, and I die.  
And if no trace of my career remain  
Save a thin corpse at pleasure of the wind  
In these bright chambers level with the air,  
See thou to it! But if my spirit fail,  
My once-proud spirit forsake me at the last,  
Hast thou done well by me? So do not thou!  
Crush not my mind, dear God, though I be crushed!

*Robert Browning.*

## HOME THOUGHTS, FROM ABROAD

O to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brush-wood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!

And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops—at the bent spray's edge—  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower—  
Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower.

*Robert Browning.*

## NOW

Out of your whole life give but a moment!  
All of your life that has gone before,  
All to come after it—so you ignore  
So you make perfect the present—condense,  
In a rapture of rage, for perfection's endowment,  
Thought and feeling and soul and sense—  
Merged in a moment which gives me at last  
You around me for once, you beneath me, above me—  
Me sure that despite of time future, time past,  
This tick of our life-time's one moment you love me!  
How long such suspension may linger? Ah, sweet!—  
The moment eternal—just that and no more—  
When ecstacy's utmost we clutch at the core  
While cheeks burn, arms open, eyes shut and lips meet!

*Robert Browning.*

## SONNETS "FROM THE PORTUGUESE"

### XIV

If thou must love me, let it be for nought  
Except for love's sake only. Do not say  
"I love her for her smile . . . her look . . . her way  
Of speaking gently, for the trick of thought  
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought  
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day"—  
For these things in themselves, Belovèd, may  
Be changed, or change for thee, and love, so wrought,  
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for  
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry—  
A creature might forget to weep, who bore  
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!  
But love me for love's sake, that evermore  
Thou may'st love on, through love's eternity.

## XXI

Say over again, and yet once over again,  
That thou dost love me. Though the word repeated  
Should seem "a cuckoo song," as thou dost treat it.  
Remember never to the hill or plain,  
Valley or wood, without her cuckoo-strain,  
Comes the fresh Spring in all her green completed.  
Belovèd, I, amid the darkness greeted  
By a doubtful spirit-voice, in that doubt's pain  
Cry, " Speak once more . . . thou lovest!" Who can fear  
Too many stars, though each in heaven shall roll—  
Too many flowers, though each shall crown the year?  
Say thou dost love me, love me, love me—toll  
The silver iterance!—only minding, Dear,  
To love me also in silence, with thy soul.

## XLIII

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints—I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life!—and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning.*

## DOVER BEACH

The sea is calm tonight.  
The tide is full, the moon lies fair  
Upon the straits:—on the French coast the light  
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,  
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.  
Come to the window, sweet is the night air!  
Only, from the long line of spray  
Where the sea meets the moon-blanchèd sand,  
Listen! you hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,  
At their return, up the high strand,  
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,  
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring  
The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago,  
Heard it on the *Æ*gean, and it brought  
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow  
Of human misery: we  
Find also in the sound a thought,  
Hearing it by this distant northern sea:—

The sea of faith  
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore  
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled;  
But now I only hear  
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,  
Retreating, to the breath  
Of the night wind, down the vast edges drear  
And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true  
To one another! for the world, which seems  
To lie before us like a land of dreams,  
So various, so beautiful, so new,  
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,  
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;  
And we are here, as on a darkling plain  
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,  
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

*Matthew Arnold.*

## WHY, HAVING WON HER

Why, having won her, do I woo?  
Because her spirit's vestal grace  
Provokes me always to pursue,  
But, spirit-like, eludes embrace.

Because her gay and lofty brows,  
When all is won which hope can ask,  
Reflect a light of hopeless snows  
That bright in virgin ether bask;

Because, though free of the outer court  
I am, this Temple keeps its shrine  
Sacred to Heaven; because, in short,  
She's not and never can be mine.

*Coventry Patmore.*

## THE REVELATION

An idle poet, here and there,  
Looks round him; but, for all the rest,  
The world, unfathomably fair,  
Is duller than a witling's jest.

Love wakes men, once a life-time each;  
They lift their heavy lids, and look;  
And lo, what one sweet page can teach,  
They read with joy, then shut the book.

And some give thanks, and some blaspheme,  
And most forget; but, either way,  
That and the Child's unheeded dream  
Is all the light of all their day.

*Coventry Patmore.*

## REST

O Earth, lie heavily upon her eyes;  
Seal her sweet eyes weary of watching, Earth;  
Lie close around her; leave no room for mirth  
With its harsh laughter, nor for sound of sighs.  
She hath no questions, she hath no replies,  
Hushed in and curtained with a blessedèd dearth  
Of all that irked her from the hour of birth;  
With stillness that is almost Paradise.  
Darkness more clear than noonday holdeth her,  
Silence more musical than any song;  
Even her very heart has ceased to stir.  
Until the morning of Eternity  
Her rest shall not begin nor end, but be;  
And when she wakes she will not think it long.

*Christina Rossetti.*

## THE WOODSPURGE

The wind flapped loose, the wind was still,  
Shaken out dead from tree and hill:  
I had walked on at the wind's will—  
I sat now, for the wind was still.

Between my knees my forehead was—  
My lips, drawn in, said not Alas!  
My hair was over in the grass,  
My naked ears heard the day pass.

My eyes, wide open, had the run  
Of some ten weeds to fix upon;  
Among those few, out of the sun,  
The woodspurge flowered, three cups in one.

From perfect grief there need not be  
Wisdom or even memory:  
One thing then learnt remains to me—  
The woodspurge has a cup of three.

*Dante Gabriel Rossetti.*

## SUDDEN LIGHT

I have been here before,  
But when or how I cannot tell:  
I know the grass beyond the door,  
The sweet keen smell,  
The sighing sound, the lights around the shore.

You have been mine before—  
How long ago I may not know:  
But just when at that swallow's soar  
Your neck turned so,  
Some veil did fall—I knew it all of yore.

Then, now—perchance again! . . . .  
O round mine eyes your tresses shake!  
Shall we not lie as we have lain  
Thus for Love's sake,  
And sleep, and wake, yet never break the chain?

*Dante Gabriel Rossetti.*

## IN A EWELEAZE NEAR WEATHERBURY

The years have gathered grayly  
Since I danced upon this leaze  
With one who kindled gaily  
Love's fitful ecstasies!  
But despite the term as teacher,  
I remain what I was then  
In each essential feature  
Of the fantasies of men.

Yet I note the little chisel  
Of never-napping Time  
Defacing wan and grizzel  
The blazon of my prime.  
When at night he thinks me sleeping  
I feel him boring sly  
Within my bones, and heaping  
Quaintest pains for by-and-by.

Still, I'd go the world with Beauty,  
I would laugh with her and sing,  
I would shun divinest duty  
To resume her worshipping.  
But she'd scorn my brave endeavour,  
She would not balm the breeze  
By murmuring "Thine for ever!"  
As she did upon this leaze.

*Thomas Hardy.*

## BEFORE SUNSET

In the lower lands of day  
On the hither side of night,  
There is nothing that will stay,  
There are all things soft to sight;  
Lighted shade and shadowy light  
In the wayside and the way,  
Hours the sun has spared to smite,  
Flowers the rain has left to play.

Shall these hours run down and say  
No good thing of thee and me?  
Time that made us and will slay  
Laughs at love in me and thee;  
But if here the flowers may see  
One whole hour of amorous breath,  
Time shall die, and love shall be  
Lord as time was over death.

*A. G. Swinburne.*

## PEACE

When will you ever, Peace, wild wood dove, shy wings  
shut,  
Your round me roaming end, and under be my boughs?  
When, when, Peace, will you, Peace? I'll not play  
hypocrite  
To own my heart: I yield you do come sometimes;  
but  
That piecemeal peace is poor peace. What pure peace  
allows  
Alarms of wars, the daunting wars, the death of it?  
  
O surely, reaving Peace, my Lord should leave in lieu  
Some good! And so he does leave Patience exquisite,  
That plumes to Peace thereafter. And when Peace here  
does house  
He comes with work to do, he does not come to coo,  
He comes to brood and sit.

*Gerard Manley Hopkins.*





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All the poems in this collection were written between the years 1500 and 1900. The size of the anthology has precluded the use of longer lyrics such as "Tintern Abbey" or "Epithalamion," and except in two instances, where extracts left the form undamaged, only complete poems have been included.

Where possible, early editions and facsimiles have been consulted, though sometimes (as in "Walsingham") a later version has seemed preferable. Spelling has been modernised, and a uniformity made in words ending with "ed." Where these are printed as "excused" they are pronounced with two syllables; "excusèd" with three. Stress marks (e.g. "especial") have only been used where words require an emphasis or pronunciation different from that of modern speech.

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